

12 July 1987

Ray Deeth President OTVARC

I felt that the club survey form provided in the current newsletter required more comment than the space provided would provide therefore I am writing this response letter. I think that the club members need more than 24 hours to respond to something as important as the items listed in this survey. I received this newsletter on the day before the meeting and have checked with several other club members and they also received theirs on Tuesday 11 July.

Item 1. Club Repeater:

At first glance it seems like it would be convenient for the club to have a standard repeater for its use however there are several problems with this. OTVARC covers such a large area that it would take several low level sites to completely cover the area therefore several repeaters. The 2 mtr band doesn't have any free repeater pairs in the area, and if we went to 450 or 220 we would eliminate most of our members because of lack of equipment. Also there is a very large cost in terms of both expense and technical resources to build and maintain a repeater system. Therefore it would make more sense to me for the club to support one of the groups in the area that already have full coverage systems installed. I am sure that most of the area repeater operators would be open to such an approach.

Item 2. Club meeting hall:

This has come up many times before and is a stupid idea for several reasons. First is the location and building was donated to use the maintenance and taxes on a facility large enough to hold our membership at a meeting would still cost us over \$1000 per regular club meeting. Also in our area we are talking about a cost of over \$100,000 to purchase a lot and build a very simple building in the greater Beaverton Hillsboro area where most of our members reside.

Item 3. Adopt Foreign Ham:

This has some possibilities if proper selection criteria were established. There is no way to make all the members happy with such a selection.

Item 4. Plaque for Silent Keys:

This idea would cost very little however what purpose would it serve with no display location.

Item 5. Scholarship Program:

This is one of the better ideas presented. With a good set of selection guidelines several scholarships could be established through the local schools that would benefit the community greatly. Most schools such as PCC already have guidelines and groups that would be glad to help with such a program.

Item 6. Club VE Program:

The area program that recently disbanded established the amount of work and resources that would have to be done by one or two people to accomplish this task. With the present level of member involvement I don't see how this could be accomplished in a professional manner and doing the job poorly would be a very large black mark on the whole ham community.

Item 7. Work up a Ham program on Public Access Cable TV.

The national programs are not being presently used, why would such a program be of any interest to non hams.

Item 8. Write an article for a local newspaper on Amateur Radio

This can be done at any time by anyone. It doesn't require any effort or expense from the club, however it would be a good idea for the board to encourage such articles.

Item 9. Public Service to Migrant Camps:

As a ham club our area of expertise in providing public service is in the area of communications. The needs in the area migrant camps are in the areas of language, sanitation, food, and medical not necessarily in that order. Since none of these are in our area of expertise we would be in the way, not a benefit.

Item 10.

There are presently many activities that need communication coordination such as the Elk's food drive mentioned in the newsletter where we could be a large benefit to the community. In such areas if we provided food items and cash for items not donated and the helped with delivery where communications and coordination of drivers would be a help we would provide more benefit for the cost both in terms of manpower and money than in areas in which we as a club have no expertise.

Given time to formulate a more complete response to these proposals I am sure that there are many things which could be done which would pass a reasonable cost benefit test. Most of the Items suggested don't come close to passing such a test with just a cursory glance. I hope that serious consideration of the cost benefit ratio is done before something is done to just spend the clubs money without regard to the benefit to our community.
Respectfully submitted

Roger Steyaert K7RXV